

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3, 4 and 6-10 contain allowable subject matter, on pages 7 and 8 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, the specification will have been amended, claims 1, 2 and 4-10 will have been amended, and claims 3 and 11 will have been canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On page 2 of the Official Action, the drawings were objected to as containing reference numbers which were not described in the specification. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawing objections in view of the above amendments to the specification and the following comments.

In regard to reference numbers 142 and 144 in Figure 2, Applicants note that a description of these reference numbers has been added to the first full paragraph on page 12.

Applicants note that support for these changes can be found in Figures 2, 8 and 9, and on pages 12 and 27-31. Note lines 16-21 of page 27, and that reference number 144 is used throughout pages 28-31.

In regard to reference numbers 32a and 32b in Figure 3, Applicants note that a description of these reference numbers has been added to the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14. Applicants note that support for these changes can be found in Figure 3. In regard to reference numbers 52a in Figure 3, Applicants note that a description of this reference number is located at lines 5-9 of page 14. In regard to reference numbers 52b in Figure 3, Applicants note that a description of this reference number is located at lines 8-11 of page 15.

In regard to reference numbers 452, 456 and 474d in Figure 11, Applicants note that a description of these reference numbers has been added to the paragraph bridging pages 34 and 35, and the first full paragraph on page 35. Applicants note that support for these changes can be found in Figure 11. Note also lines 4 and 5 on page 35, and the description of the pressing member 350 of the second embodiment on page 34, lines 3-22.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants note that the claims have been amended to address all of the issues pointed out by the Examiner. In regard to claims 1 and 10, Applicants note that the transmitting mechanism engages the ends of the shaft, and in this manner the linear movement of the shaft is transmitted to the driving frame through the transmitting mechanism. The Examiner's attention is directed to Figures 3-9 and the corresponding portions of the specification for more a more detailed explanation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action, claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is now moot, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of these claims.

On page 6 of the Official Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants note that claim 11 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In regard to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4 and 6-10 on pages 7 and 8 of the Official Action, Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that various features of these claims are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. However, Applicants wish to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art. Thus the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those mentioned by the Examiner.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

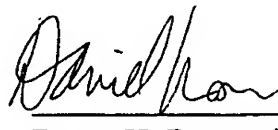
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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